

ABSTRACT

An image forming apparatus includes a light beam
generating and modulating device which generates and modulates
a light beam in accordance with an image signal, a light beam
5 deflecting device which deflects the modulated light beam and
scans an image carrier so as to form an image.

a pair of light beam detecting device is provided to
detect the light beam deflected by the deflecting device at
two separate positions on a main scanning line. The pair of
10 light beam detecting device generates both of a reference time
difference and at a prescribed temperature and a time difference
to be compared with the reference time difference in a
prescribed timing during image formation. A time difference
measuring device is provided to measure a time difference
15 between time periods when the light beam is detected by one
of the light beam detecting devices and when that is detected
by the other of light beam detecting devices. An image
magnification correcting device is also provided to change a
write clock frequency of the light beam and the rotation number
20 of the light deflecting device in accordance with the time
difference so as to correct magnification error in the main
scanning direction of the image on the image carrier. A
visualizing device is provided to visualize the image on the
image carrier written by the light beam.